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## "The Invisible State Department"

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**L**OBBY, as *The Encyclopedia Americana* defines it, is "a class of persons who seek to influence legislation outside of the regular legislature".

Today such a definition of the term "lobby" seems much too inadequate and too mild. Lobbyism has become such an influential factor in U.S. political life that the body of lobbyists is sometimes called the "third Chamber" of Congress or the "invisible State Department". Lobbyists are paid agents of the monopolies. The latter usually resort to their help when it is necessary to push through Congress a bill or to prevent the passage of a bill affecting their interests. The lobbyists act in many ways, among which bribery, intrigue and blackmail are not the least. This typically American institution gives a striking picture of how the state machine is subordinated to the will of the monopolies.

Foreign lobbyism has become widespread in Washington in the post-war period. This term is used to designate the activities of agents who represent foreign governments, monopolies or political groups, and also various U.S. monopolies which are after definite aims abroad. Washington's foreign policy is usually shaped in keen struggle between rival monopoly cliques, each of which wants to bend it to its selfish interests. That is where lobbyists have a field-day.

In recent years, the activities of this "invisible State Department" have assumed such a scale that in the summer of 1962 the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had to undertake an investigation of the "non-diplomatic activities of representatives of foreign governments". Although the investigation was eventually soft-pedalled, it brought out in particular the fact that more than 400 registered lobbyists were operating in the United States in an effort to exercise pressure on Washington's foreign policy (in 1944 they numbered 174 and in 1954, 271).<sup>1</sup> Even the Irish Prince Raymond Moulton Seagham Donough VI, who lays claim to

sovereignty over the former principality of Thomond, on the territory of which the Dublin Shannon Airport is now located, has "his men" in Washington.

This "princely" lobby is, of course, a mere oddity. But the pressure groups operating in the United States are laying a definite imprint on Washington's foreign policy.

### SUGAR AND FLIES

ON May 25, 1965, the *Washington Daily News* carried an article falsely accusing Antonio Guzman, ex-Minister of Agriculture in the Bosh Government of the Dominican Republic, of swindling operations. The publication aimed to discredit the attempts connected with the name of Guzman to resolve the Dominican crisis. It was subsequently established that this fraud was engineered by the selfsame imperialist forces, the Dominican lobby in the first place, which a month earlier had induced Washington to carry out its armed intervention in the domestic affairs of the Dominican Republic.

Senator Wayne Morse has stated that the publication of the smear article was prepared by someone named Irving Davidson, an agent of the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. who for many years had represented in Washington the interests of Central American dictatorial regimes, including Trujillo. Lobbyist Davidson had acted in contact with the State Department and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The Dominican lobby dates back to the days of dictator Trujillo, who employed it to defend the interests of the local oligarchy and the U.S. monopolies operating in that country.

In his book *Trujillo: The Last Caesar*, Arturo Espaillat, former head of the Dominican secret service, describes the methods used by the Dominican lobbyists in Washington. The system of bribery in the U.S. capital, he says, was brought by the Dominican lobbyists to perfection. They even had a special scale of bribe rates. The "price" of an ordinary Congressman was not more than \$5,000. Some members of House